



28 March 2010

THE CHURCH UNDER THE CROSS

Welcome *A warm welcome to all who join us today in giving worship and praise to our great God and Saviour. May this be a time of growing in grace and strengthening our relationship with the Lord and with each other. Please join us for a cuppa after the service. If you are visiting today, please sign our visitor's Book. We have an information leaflet explaining our church's ministries and activities, feel free to take one or ask for one.*

WORSHIP TODAY

9:30 AM Rev Peter Mecheilsen
(Pastor Jim in Leongatha)
Message: "What is so great about the Gospel? -
God's great Promise." (Phil 1:6)
Readings: Acts 16:6-15; Philippians 1:3-11

6:00 PM Rev. Ron Nauta and Jubilate Choir
Message: The KING'S coming to YOU
(Luke 19:28-44)
Reading: Zechariah 9:1-13

Duty Elder: Corey van Garderen

GOOD FRIDAY

1 – Local Church
2 – WDR

NEXT WEEK EASTER SUNDAY

1 – Local Church
2 – The Bible League

LAST WEEK

Freewill/Pledges \$2,626.75
Deaconate \$522.70

Duty Deacon: Karl Hauke

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Good Friday Service (2nd April)

9:30 AM Rev. Crosbie de Kretser
Duty Elder: David Barrot

Duty Deacon: Gerry Smedes

SUNDAY 4th April

9:30 AM Rev. Crosbie de Kretser
6:00 PM Rev. Ben Aldridge

Duty Elder: Peter Noorbergen

Duty Deacon: Aafke Span

OFFERINGS

THIS WEEK

1 – Local Church
2 – Ministry Formation Workgroup

ROSTERS

COFFEE SERVING :

Today: E. Oinonen, P. Noorbergen, J. Gully
Next Week: J. Nicholson, M. van Rossen,
J. van Breen

PA & VIDEO :

Today: Jennifer van Neutegem,
David Cameron

Next Week: Kevin de Jong, Paul Cholel

DATA PROJECTOR

Today: Dave Barrot

Next Week: Cameron de Witte

GREETERS

Today: Corry Blik

Good Friday Yke & Anneke Laverman

Next week: Corry Blik

From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday we welcome Pastor Peter Mechielsen from the Langwarrin CRC, to lead our morning service. Every month we have a Classis pulpit swap between a number of churches, but it is always the evening service in which the swap is done. It was thought that, with the Jubilate Choir Easter service this evening, it would be good to have a morning swap. This way the congregations and the pastors can meet in the larger setting. I will be leading the service in Leongatha. We pray that God will bless Peter as he leads the service. May God, through his Holy Spirit, guide our worship and praise, and may he give us hearts to hear and respond to him in thanks and praise for his grace and goodness to us.

Our Daily Bread devotion last week talked about 'Texting God'. In Colossians 3:9 Paul writes, 'since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you...' An article in the Washington Post told about a 15-year old girl who sent and received 6,473 mobile phone messages in a single month. She says about her constant communication with friends, 'I would die without it'. And she is not alone. Researchers say that US teens (and I'm sure it would be similar here in Australia) with mobile phones average more than 2,200 text messages a month.

To me, this ongoing digital conversation offers a remarkable illustration of what prayer could and should be like for every follower of Christ. Paul seemed to be constantly in a attitude of prayer for others: 'Pray without ceasing' (1 Thess 5:17). But how can we possibly do that?

Missionary Frank Laubach described his habit of 'shooting' prayers at people as he encountered them during the course of each day. In a sense, he was

'texting' God on their behalf, staying in constant communication with the Father. Laubach believed that prayer is the mightiest force in the world, and said, 'My part is to live in this hour in continuous inner conversation with God and in perfect responsiveness to his will.'

Pray without ceasing. Perhaps what Paul urged us to do can be done. (David McCasland- March 22 2010).

Holidays

Pastor Jim and the family will be on holidays from Monday 29th March to Sunday 11th April (2 weeks). He will be away in Sydney for a family wedding and family reunion. Any pastoral issues can be referred to Henni Burggraaf (till the 5th April) and the Elders.

While I am away we are privileged to have Rev. Crosbie de Kretser lead our Easter services. A huge 'thank you' to Crosbie for making himself available so I can attend some significant family gatherings in Sydney. I know that we will be blessed by Crosbie during this time. A thank you to others who are filling-in during my absence.

Church Op Shop

We open Thursdays 11.30am-4.30pm and Fridays 10am- 4.30pm. Donations can be dropped off during these times. Please remember we cannot accept electrical items. If you would like to volunteer some time to help us either for set up on Thursdays at 10am, pack up on Fridays at 4.30pm, or general help sorting donations and sharing cuppas with customers, please speak to Anneke Laverman or Anita de Witte. We would love some extra help!

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Eternity

Eternity is a new national newspaper for Christians that contains news of from around the nation, testimonies, opinions, feature articles, justice issues and so much more. Pick up your free *Eternity* Newspaper from the hall after church. Read it, share it.

Youth Service at Wonga Park CRC Tonight

28th March Theme: "Still Searching"

6 PM. Corner of Gatters and Yarra Roads in Wonga Park

We will be picking up the "Search" theme from convention. So come to our youth service, catch up with your newly made convention friends, and join us for a nice cup of hot chocolate, milo or coffee after. ChrisP and all the guys from Wonga Park look forward to seeing you there!

Men's Convention

Now the women's convention is over we men have an opportunity to attend a Men's convention to be held at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre (22-24th May). I would love for a group of men to join me at that convention (just the Friday night and Saturday). Because of its proximity to home we do not need overnight accommodation but can sleep in our own beds. The theme for the weekend is The Gospel: know it and live it. I will be putting notices in your pigeon holes in the weeks ahead, so you can respond.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

THE GRACE GROW GROUP (Triple G)

Meet in the Prayer room at church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2.00-3.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. For further information contact Maurice Eleveld (8740 2397)

OASIS GROWTH GROUP: Meets from 7.15pm – 9.15 pm. New members are welcome.

Contact Harry Burggraaf on Ph: 9791 2601.

COFFEE BREAK LADIES BIBLE STUDY,

Meet at the church at 10am. All ladies are welcome to join us for a coffee, as we have fellowship and study God's Word every Tuesday morning.

RUMPUS ROOM

(young adults bible study)

All those 18+ are welcome, we meet fortnightly on a Sunday from 4-6. We look at the bible via talks, dvds, and study books to see what God's call for

Our life is in His world.

If you would like to come and join please see David Barrot or ring him on 0401 073 954.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

For further information contact Karl Hauke (9790 5801).

Palm Sunday

Every year we have a combined evening service where a number of our churches come together for a Palm Sunday celebration. This will once again be held in the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church on the 28th of March at 6pm. The Jubilate Choir will participate in this service and the message will be brought by Pastor Ron Nauta from Leongatha. You are invited to join us for this time of celebration. Supper will be provided afterwards.

Pastor Peter Mechielsen

Pastoral and Prayer Points

- **Nettie Blenk** broke her wrist in a fall, and will be feeling the limits of being one-handed for a while. She is thankful it is not her right hand. Pray for healing for her.
- Regina Gnanathurai has her daughter Christine here from England. Others are also hosting family members from overseas. If you see them make them feel welcome.
- **Johan Otto** has travelled to South Africa to spend time with his parents and family there, as his father's health is declining. He will be back this week.
- **Pia Antheunis** will spend time in respite in the hostel for April, while her son Franciscus and his wife Liz travel overseas.
- **Hazel de Kretser** (Ishbelle and Crosbie's mother) has moved to Vic Rehab on Springvale Road, for recuperation and physio treatment to strengthen her. She will value your prayer and encouragement for

this time.

- **Anne Daniels** has had significant declines in her ability to be mobile and now needs to use a wheel chair. It is hard for family members and spouses to see the physical declines and changes that happen due to disease. Pray for those who are watching their loved ones going through these changes.
- **John Mans** is also aware of these physical changes in his body. But it is good to know that God does not change. He is ever faithful and remains with us even in the midst of changes.
- Continue to hold in prayer all those who are struggling with frail health issues especially those who are in residential care and in high care, and who depend on others for all their needs.
- **Harry and Henni Burggraaf** are planning to be away overseas for 3 months (Harry's long-service leave). They leave 7th April and return again end of June. During this time Jonathan will be living independently with support from carers through in-home-respite. He may need a bit of extra encouragement (e.g. give him a phone call and ask him how his day was) over these months.
- **Jim and Anita and their family** have two weeks of annual leave which starts tomorrow. They will spend time with family in NSW where they have another wedding. We pray that they will be refreshed and enjoy this family time together. Pray for safe travel for all who travel over this Easter period.

Any emergencies that arise (during April 5-10) requiring pastoral support, please contact your district elder.

CORNERSTONE FOOD COLLECTION this MONTH

Thank you for the regular food supplies that are coming in for this cause. We are hoping to be able to deliver these this week to Cornerstone to help rebuild their pantry supplies. Food stock can still be placed in the container today. Thank you as you participate in this work of mercy.

On behalf of **the deacons**.

Easter WD&R Offering

At this time of the year our churches are asked to take up an offering for the World Development and

Relief Workgroup. We have been doing this for 25 years now. The WD&R workgroup have faithfully administered the raised funds to serve the poor of the world on our behalf, and we are grateful for their work.

For the Dandenong church we have allocated the offering of Good Friday for this appeal. But, being a combined service this evening, we will set aside our regular offerings and have just the one collection for the WD&R workgroup. This is because we will have many guests from other churches attending and would like to invite them to support his relief work. We ask that you give generously for God's glory.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Carla Holtzhausen

April 3

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
The Lord make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee. NUMBERS 6:24-25

Accommodation

A family from the Gosnells CRC (WA) are asking if there is accommodation available for a nephew (Tristan) who is coming to study political science in Monash University for one year. Tristan is from France and knows no one in Australia except the family in Perth. He is looking for a place to stay and the family would love for that to be a Christian family, or flatmate. If you might be able to help out, or know someone who might, then please see Pastor Jim for more details.



SOLOMON NEWS

Greetings from Solomon Islands. Machi and I have only been back 2 weeks, but much has happened, also in our absence. So we thank God for the faithful work which has continued and the faithful people

who have done the work and who have prayed and supported in many ways. Here are some highlights.

1. It was a joy to come back to a place that looked so much better than we left it. Yes, the effects of the flood even now can still be seen, but much has been cleaned up, and things are getting back to normal. Even so, Cyclone Ului, which also hit the Queensland coast, had its impact in Solomon Islands, with much rain, strong winds and more flooding in some areas. As is so often the case, people are badly affected when their gardens are spoiled as a result of flooding or excess water. Their potato and other crops rot in the ground and much hard work is wasted. Please pray that affected people may receive the assistance they need.

2. Work at Bethesda continues to make steady progress. Under Michael's guidance, the grounds and the buildings are being improved or completed. We hope to start with a course of Disability workers next month as a trial for all the facilities. Susan will have an active role to play in making that happen.

3. Jair and Laurretta have taken up the prison ministry, and are settling in really well. They go together each Tuesday to Rove, and one of them goes on Fridays to Tetera prison Farm.

4. Jair has also been busy repairing vehicles, and we have offered his services to the Wycliffe Bible Translators team in Honiara as our support for a fellow Christian mission. He is kept quite busy with all of this.

5. Ministry continues in a variety of ways, with visiting teams using our centre for workshops and training. Machi left for Malaita 3 days after arriving home to run workshops over 2 weeks in different areas, and she is expected home on Friday (26th). Kevin has started a five week teaching block at Saora Bible College, a South Seas Evangelical Church college on Guadalcanal, teaching homiletics (preaching).

6. Our carpentry apprentices, after spending some weeks doing ground clearing are back into carpentry with a number of small projects at SWIM. They are working on a carport where the old workshop used to be, and that will be followed by an extension to the leaf house, and then a one room extension to the boys sleeping quarters. After that it will be almost time for them to resume their schooling at the Rural Training Centre

7. The radio broadcasts continue to receive good responses, and we are thankful for the continuation of

The Back to God Hour on 2 different stations, Crossroads Connection on yet another station, and the weekly "Hymns of the Ages" broadcast twice each Sunday.

8. We are going to engage in a little more social activity among all those who live on the Base, and also those at Henderson, This Friday will be a sporting afternoon. Activities geared towards building up the fellowship and friendship should happen at least monthly.

Well that is all for now. We continue to appreciate your many prayers and practical support. May God bless you all even as he blesses us and the ministry here. May His name be praised.

Kevin, for all at SWIM and Bethesda.



World Water Day

Did you know that Monday 22nd of March was World Water Day? Since living in Victoria our family has lived under water restrictions, but we have never run out of clean, safe drinking water. We might not have the healthy gardens we like, but we can turn on a tap at any time and get access to cool water. I must say, I find it strange that the water restrictions are being eased here in Melbourne, but that is another story.

Did you know?

- 884 million people do not have access to safe

water? That is 1 in 8!

- 1.4 million children die from diarrhoea caused by unclean water and sanitation
- Water related disease is the 2nd biggest killer worldwide
- African women carry 20 kg of water on their heads (our luggage allowance)
- Water and sanitation infrastructure helps people take the first step out of the cycle of poverty
- In Australia, the average person uses 282 litres of water every day
- The average person in the developing world uses 10 litres of water every day; the same amount of water we use every time we flush the toilet.
- The average distance women in Africa and Asia walk to collect water is 6 km.

How many points around the home do you have where you can access clean water? We have 11!!! There are so many places around the world that have none for the whole community and I have 11 in my home! Clean water changes lives, improves health, increases agriculture and saves time.

Why not spend some time today reflecting on how you use water and the role it plays in your life and then give some time to consider those who have limited or no access to such lovely water. There are many organisations, like KidsLink, that have safe drinking water for communities as part of their ministry. Maybe there is a way to assist them in that work.

It takes faith to be an evolutionist

Those who teach that we human beings evolved over billions of years from lower forms of life don't often quote the following words:

"To suppose (that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd to the highest degree. "

Those who promote evolution certainly don't tell us that it was Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, who spoke those words.

TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE

PICK YOUR OWN BONE

It has been said that the structure of any organisation is made of bone -

wishbones - who spend all their time wishing some one else would do the work.

Jawbones - who do all the talking but very little else.

Knuckles - who knock everything that anyone else tries to do.

Backbones - who get under the load and do all the work.

WHICH ARE YOU? PROVE IT.

Did you hear?

about the little fellow who went to Church in his Sunday best and came home without his tie. "Where's your tie?" asked his mother.

"I gave it to the Church," came the reply.

"Why did you give it to the Church?" asked his mother.

"Because halfway through the service the minister said it was time to give our ties and our offerings."

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

More bulletin bloopers

"The special speakers for the advent season will be found hanging in the church porch."

"Eggs will be collected next Sunday for the College students. We trust each parishioner will be able to lay at least one egg in the basket provided."

"The Rev John Jones will be preaching next Sunday evening. After that the church will be closed for repairs."

There will be a service at the North End Mission at 3.00pm this afternoon and at the South End Mission at 4.00pm. Children will be baptised at both ends, "